

REMARKS

Claims 24 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-23 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented in this Amendment. Claims 1 and 3 are the independent claims.

Entry of the foregoing amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because those amendments simply respond to the issues raised in the final rejection, no new issues are raised, no further search is required, and the foregoing amendments are believed to remove the basis of the outstanding rejections and to place all claims in condition for allowance. The foregoing amendments, or explanations, could not have been made earlier because these issues had not previously been raised.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kaneko (U.S. Patent 6,188,379 B1).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Claims 24 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 24 and 25 is moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 1-23 are allowed.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP

Date: 7/16/07

By: Douglas X. Rodriguez
Douglas X. Rodriguez
Registration No. 47,269

1400 Eye St., NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 216-9505
Facsimile: (202) 216-951